

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 16, 2003*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 4, I attended an important announcement at the U.S. Department of Labor concerning the funding of a vital initiative to assist dislocated workers and retirees in Minnesota pay for their health care expenses.

As a result, I was unable to cast my vote on the rule (H. Res 257) for the Partial Birth Abortion Ban legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 236 because I strongly supported the need for the House to consider this important pro-life legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT  
OF DR. BARBARA BENSON OF  
THE DELAWARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 16, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Barbara Benson upon her retirement as the executive director of the Delaware Historical Society. Dr. Benson has served as the organization's executive director for thirteen years and as staff librarian for ten years prior. She has left the history of Delaware on display for many future generations to cherish and explore our rich heritage.

Dr. Benson is a recognized scholar in her field who set high performance standards for every task she undertook at the Delaware Historical Society. During Dr. Benson's tenure, the Delaware Historical Society grew in both its collections and membership. Furthermore, Dr. Benson led the organization's purchase of the old Woolworth 5 & 10 next to the town hall, which now proudly serves as the Delaware History Museum.

Dr. Benson has challenged Delawareans to think, learn and grow. Delawareans have been called upon to connect Delaware's history with their own lives and relate their own experiences with the future of Delaware's history.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Benson for challenging the residents of Delaware and for sharing her knowledge with us. The legacy Dr. Benson has left us through her work at the Delaware Historical Society is not one that will soon be forgotten.

## HONORING IRVING I. STONE

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 16, 2003*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Irving I. Stone, founder of American Greetings Corporation, whose generosity to his community and abroad is constantly remembered. Mr. Stone's involvement with the company started when he was a

young boy. His father sold postcards from a horse and buggy. Immediately after graduating high school, he became a salesman. He made the largest sale of the company at age 19 to the management of Cleveland's Euclid Beach Park.

In the 1930's, Stone convinced his father that the company should design and print its own cards. In order to implement this, he started the American Greetings Creative Department, one of the largest art studios in the country. Irving Stone continued to bring innovative ideas to the company and retailers, making the greeting card industry what it is today.

More important than his accomplishments with his company was his commitment to his community by participating with many civic organizations: Chairman of the Board, Hebrew Academy of Cleveland; Member of the Board of Directors, Young Israel of Cleveland; Board Member, Cleveland Institute of Art and Bar Ilan University; Regional Board Member, Liberty Mutual Insurance; Founding Trustee for Life, Cleveland Jewish News.

It is because of his commitment to the community and desire to see it move forward in the future that the Young Israel of Greater Cleveland will honor Mr. Stone by dedicating the Synagogue to him on June 22, 2003. Irving I. Stone was an outstanding man who will always be remembered for his outstanding good deeds to his community and beyond.

HONORING RIPLEY, OHIO, THE  
PARKER SOCIETY, ANN  
HAGEDORN FOR KEEPING THE  
HEROIC STORIES OF THE UNDER-  
GROUND RAILROAD ALIVE

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 16, 2003*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Village of Ripley, the Parker Society and author Ann Hagedorn, for working so tirelessly to commemorate the lives and stories of people who risked life and property for the cause of freedom: the conductors on the Underground Railroad. The Village of Ripley and Ann Hagedorn were honored during the Salute to Trailblazers Underground Railroad event on Capitol Hill in March.

The Village of Ripley is in Brown County, Ohio, which I represent. It is home to two former conductors on the Underground Railroad, Presbyterian minister Reverend John Rankin, and freed slave, John Parker. Both the Rankin house and Parker house have been restored and help tell the story of how hundreds of slaves escaped via the Underground Railroad. Today in Ripley, the Parker Historical Society is comprised of many dedicated people, committed to preservation of the homes, artifacts, and stories of the brave people who believed so strongly in freedom for all.

The mission of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, located in Cincinnati, Ohio, is to educate the public about the struggle to abolish slavery and secure freedom for all people. For many years, the Parker Society has worked tirelessly to restore the John Parker House, collecting artifacts, and recounting the life and history of John Rankin, John Parker, and the heroes of the

Underground Railroad. Ann Hagedorn's recent book, *Beyond The River*, recounts in gripping detail the history of bravery and determined resolve of ordinary people who accomplished extraordinary deeds. The Brown County Commissioners had extraordinary vision and were particularly supportive of the Parker Society's restoration efforts.

All of us in Southwest Ohio join in congratulating the Village of Ripley, the Parker Society, Ann Hagedorn, and the Brown County Commissioners for their vision in keeping the heroic stories of the Underground Railroad alive.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY  
LEADERSHIP OF GROVER AND  
BETTY POTEET

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 16, 2003*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of two outstanding leaders and dear friends, Grover and Betty Poteet. The service they have provided over the years resonates throughout our community.

Both natives of Spring Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Poteet now live in Trenton, Tennessee. They have three children, Melinda Poteet Goode, Doug Poteet, and Melia Poteet Anderson. They are also the proud grandparents of Garner Goode and Crockett Goode. Together, Grover and Betty earned the 1999-2000 Citizens of the Year Award, presented by the Trenton Elks Lodge.

Grover graduated from Spring Hill High School in 1955 and served in the United States Army from 1955-1957. Grover has contributed so much to his community, including his service as a member of the Gibson County Court from 1974-1994. Grover also showed his compassion for people by serving as a member of the National Guard Equal Opportunity Race Relations Council. He is currently chair of the Gibson County Lake/Water Board Authority and was recently honored with the Trenton Elks Dedicated Service Award for 2002-2003.

Betty graduated from Spring Hill High School in 1957 and began working at the Milan Army Ammunition Plant, a career that lasted 45 years. Betty also served for 15 years as the parade director for the Trenton Teapot Parade, one of the biggest local festivals in Tennessee. Her tireless community work earned her the Tennessee National Guard's Hard Worker of the Year Award for 1994-1995.

The Poteets have always been very active leaders in Tennessee, through heavy involvement in the Democratic Party at the local and state level. Their love for our democratic process helps make West Tennessee a great place to live.

Time and time again, Grover and Betty Poteet have proven their love for our neighbors in Trenton and Gibson County. Their dedication has always been and will continue to be appreciated. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the accomplishments and dedication of two fine leaders and my friends, Grover and Betty Poteet.